

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 491

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Paul Pemberton of Rockwood.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Paul "Coach Tom" Pemberton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pemberton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Tom Pemberton was born on July 6, 1924, in Junction City, Kentucky, and moved with his family to Rockwood in 1927; he graduated from Rockwood High School in 1943; and

WHEREAS, a member of this nation's "Greatest Generation," Mr. Pemberton served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and fought in the Battle of Okinawa; he was awarded two Purple Hearts for his courageous and selfless service to his country; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, Tom Pemberton obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees and returned to Rockwood, where he began a rewarding career in education and coached football and basketball. Later, he worked for the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and ultimately retired from the State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, Mr. Pemberton continued to serve his community by participating in numerous organizations and charitable endeavors; and

WHEREAS, well-respected in the community, Coach Tom Pemberton was honored by the Roane County School System when it named Rockwood High School's stadium the "Tom Pemberton Stadium"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pemberton was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Lynn Pemberton; his parents, Caywood and Robbie Pemberton; and his brothers, Bill, Bert, C.W., Jack, and Jim Pemberton; and

WHEREAS, Tom Pemberton is survived by his children, Tom (Laura) Pemberton, Tina Pemberton, and Mike (Dana) Pemberton; his grandchildren, Jill (Trent) Williams, Matthew Pemberton, Robyn Pemberton, Luke Faust, and Michael Pemberton; and his great-grandchildren, Emma, Addie, and Molly Ross Williams and Abigail Cofer Faust; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed but fondly remembered by his sisters, Peggy Edwards and Ann Griesinger; his brother, John Pemberton; his special friends and members of the Class of 1943, J. Polk Cooley, Dr. George Shacklett, and Gid Tedder; and a host of relatives, former players, students, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pemberton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas Paul Pemberton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pemberton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.